

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are all the claims pending in the present application. Claims 1-6, 8-10, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Bluetooth (Specification of the Bluetooth System Volume 1.0A, July 26, 1999). Claims 7, 11, 12, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Bluetooth in view of Shona (U.S. Patent No.: 5,799,085).

§ 103(a) Rejections (Bluetooth) - Claims 1-6, 8-10, and 13

Claims 1-6, 8-10, and 13 are rejected for the reasons set forth on pages 2-7 of the present Office Action.

With respect to independent claim 1, Applicant submits that Bluetooth does not teach or suggest at least, “(b) sending a predetermined message according to a current operation mode to the other device and storing the predetermined message when an authentication-response message to the first authentication-request message is received,” as recited in independent claim 1. To support the rejection of claim 1, the Examiner cites Part C, Section 3.3.4, page 197 of Bluetooth as allegedly satisfying the above-quoted feature of claim 1. However, the cited portion of Bluetooth and other related portions of Bluetooth fail to teach or suggest that a predetermined message is sent according to a current operation mode. Further, Bluetooth does not teach or suggest that the predetermined message is stored when an authentication-response message to the first authentication-request message is received. The portion of Bluetooth cited by the Examiner only discusses the operation of creating a link key, and storing a link key in memory, however, nowhere does Bluetooth even mention sending a predetermined message according to a current operation mode or that a sent predetermined message is, in fact, stored.

Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over Bluetooth.

With respect to dependent claims 2-6, 8-10 and 13, Applicant submits that these claims are patentable at least by virtue of their indirect or direct dependency from independent claim 1.

§ 103(a) Rejections (Bluetooth/Shona) - Claims 7, 11, 12, and 14

Claims 7, 11, 12, and 14 are rejected for the reasons set forth on pages 8-11 of the present Office Action.

With respect to independent claim 7, Applicant amends this claim, as indicated herein, and submits that the applied references, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest, “(b) after performing the step (a) and prior to performing the step(c), checking an authentication condition of the present device when a predetermined message from the other device is received; (c) after performing the step (b), storing the predetermined message and sending a second authentication-request message to the other device when the result of checking indicates that a mutual authentication is required” as recited in amended claim 7. That is, Shona, at column 5, lines 61-67, only teaches that a determination is made as to whether a next process should occur after a mutual authentication operation. Shona however, fails to teach or suggest that after performing the step (a) and prior to performing the step(c), checking of an authentication condition of the present device is performed. Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that independent claim 7 is patentably distinguishable over Bluetooth and Shona, either alone or in combination.

With respect to dependent claim 11, Applicant submits that this claim is patentable at least by virtue of its indirect dependency from independent claim 1. Shona does not make up for the deficiencies of Bluetooth.

With respect to independent claim 12, Applicant submits that neither Bluetooth nor Shona, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggest, “determining whether an authentication procedure for establishing a connection between the devices...as a unilateral authentication procedure or as a mutual authentication procedure, according to an authentication condition which enables receiving an authentication request in the two devices that can communicate data,” as recited in claim 12. Although the Examiner acknowledges that Bluetooth fails to teach the above quoted feature of claim 12, the Examiner cites column 5, lines 61-67 of Shona for allegedly disclosing this feature. In response, Applicant submits that Shona only teaches that a determination of whether a next process should occur after a mutual authentication operation is performed (discussed above), i.e., Shona does not teach or suggest that a determination, of whether an authentication procedure will be performed as a unilateral authentication procedure or a mutual authentication procedure, is made according to an authentication condition. Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that independent claim 12 is patentably distinguishable over the applied references, either alone or in combination.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U. S. Application No. 09/721,713

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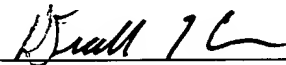
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